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11 August 1959

Corneration Gremony

MEMORANDUM POR: Mr. Dulles

SUBTECT

: Date for Cornerstone Ceremony

- i. It has been suggested that our cornerstone ceremony might be held on Veterans' Day (formerly Armistice Day), 11 November, which this year falls on a Wednesday. This is a legal heliday and our contractors expect to have only a token force of workmen on the site that day. Our own employees will also have a heliday which will permit more of them and their families to attend the ceremony. Furthermore, I believe the President stays in town to attend the traditional services at Arlington Cemetery that morning, and we could hold our ceremony at any time during the day that he might select.
- 2. If Veterans' Day is not possible, a Friday date appears most practical. Prior to the end of Daylight Saving on Sunday, 25 Cotober, the sun will not set until after 6:00 p.m., Washington time, but after we go on Standard time sunsets will be at 5:00 p.m., or earlier. In order to have our construction work as far advanced as possible and still take advantage of Daylight Saving, I would recommend as our first choice 4:30 p.m., on Friday, 23 October. Second choice would be Friday, 16 October. In view of the early darkness after Daylight Saving, I do not believe that later Fridays would be practical.

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